

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Cellulosic fiber composites and finished cellulosic fiber composite articles are provided. The cellulosic fiber composites comprise cellulosic material and a resin binder. The resin binder comprises vegetable protein hydrolysates and a synthetic resin. The synthetic resin can be phenolic resin, isocyanate resin, or combinations thereof. The composite contains an effective amount of resin binder so as to bind together the cellulosic material. The amount of resin binder is less than 40% of the dry weight of the cellulosic material. The protein hydrolysates provide a composite with a reduced amount of petrochemicals. The composite can also contain a silicone, silane, or combination thereof.